



ADMINISTRATORS ATTITUDE TOWARDS VISUALLY IMPAIRED TEACHERS

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ABSTRACT

It was very many years ago that most blind people who were employed in a small group of occupations. Additionally, changes in legislations have made people who are blind more aware of their rights to pursue employment in the field of their choice, and these same laws prohibit employers from discriminating against the blind applicant or employee. The visually impaired individuals mostly opt for teaching position and a number of teachers working school and collegiate level. However the employers and administrators attitude is a crucial component in employment of Visually Impaired teachers. Hence this study aimed to find out the Administrators Attitude towards Visually Impaired teachers. The investigator developed her own Rating Scale to measure Administrators Attitude towards Visually Impaired Teachers. Descriptive survey design is adopted in this study. Descriptive research which include selection, surveys and fact-finding enquiries of different kinds were collected. Administrators of 30 visually impaired teachers working in schools and 30 in college / university level assessed about their attitude towards Visually Impaired Teachers working under them. The results revealed that the administrators expressed moderate level of attitude towards Visually Impaired teachers.

KEYWORDS: Administrators, Employers, Attitude, Visually Impaired, Teachers.

Introduction

It was very many years ago that most blind people who were employed in a small group of occupations. Some examples of such jobs include piano tuning, sewing, winding brooms, and operating vending stands in Federal facilities. While a number of blind people are still successfully employed in these occupations, the 1980s and 1990s have been a time when many blind people have sought and found employment in various other fields.

Additionally, changes in legislations have made people who are blind more aware of their rights to pursue employment in the field of their choice, and these same laws prohibit employers from discriminating against the blind applicant or employee. The visually impaired individuals mostly opt for teaching position and a number of teachers working school and collegiate level.

Gilbride et al. (2000) investigated Employer Attitudes towards Disabled Employees, including Visually Impaired employees. Visually Impaired employees rated among the highest in terms of their encountering difficulties in their work, and many employers held reservations about employing Visually impaired people. Results also suggested that in many cases employers had limited knowledge of government-run vocational rehabilitation services for employees, with many having a mixed opinion of the success of vocational rehabilitation.

Restad, Raymond O(1972) investigation on "A Survey of Attitudes Held by School Administrators toward Blind Teacher Applicants", this study focused on the general attitudes held by school administrators toward the blind teacher. A two-part questionnaire, consisting of 13 descriptive items and a 10-item attitude scale, was completed by 553 elementary and secondary school administrators in the state of Minnesota. Attitudes were compared on the basis of administrator's age, highest degree held, geographic area from which the degree was earned, the type of school where the administrator was located, the level of his school, the population of the community in which he worked, and the degree of experience he had working with blind teachers. The responses indicated a positive attitude toward blind teachers. The level of education of the administrators and the degree of experience they had working with blind teachers were the two factors which resulted in differentiating attitudes. Administrators with the most education tended to be more positive in their view of employing teachers. Administrators with prior experience with blind teachers also tended to be more positive.

However the employers and administrators attitude is a crucial component in employment of Visually Impaired teachers. Hence this study aimed to find out the Administrators Attitude towards Visually Impaired teachers.

Materials & Method

Tools

Personnel Data Sheet to collect the demographic details of the visually impaired teachers was used in this study. The investigator developed her own Rating Scale to measure Administrators Attitude towards Visually Impaired Teachers.

Design of the Study

Descriptive survey design is adopted in this study. Descriptive research which include selection, surveys and fact-finding enquiries of different kinds were collected.

Data Collection Procedure

The study was conducted in three phases.

In the first phase the investigator made a survey to identify visually impaired teachers working in various schools and Colleges/University in Coimbatore and Chennai districts of Tamilnadu. In phase two the investigator administered the Rating Scale to the Administrators of 30 selected visually impaired teachers working in Schools. In third phase the investigator administered the rating scale to the administrators of 30 visually impaired teachers working in College /University to assess their Attitude towards Visually Impaired teachers working under them. The investigator carried out the assessment as direct interview with the sample selected.

Data Analysis

Qualitative Analysis was used to assess the Level of Administrators Attitude towards Visually Impaired Teachers.

Result

Attitude Level towards Visually Impaired Teachers

Level	No.	Percent
Low(<30)	15	25
Moderate(30-34)	28	46.67
High(>34)	17	28.33
Total	60	100

The Attitude of Administrators towards Visually Impaired teachers have been collected and scores have been analyzed in terms of Low, Moderate and High. Most of the Heads/ Coworkers (46.67) expressed that their teaching performance was on an average effective. Twenty five percent of the professionals attached low impression on the Visually Impaired teachers. About 28% expressed that Visually Impaired teachers are Competent in Teaching.

Discussion

The study revealed that the Administrators Attitude towards Visually Impaired Teachers is in the positive sense of moderate level this finding is in line with Restad, Raymond O(1972) and Gilbride et al. (2000) reported as Administrators has positive attitude towards Visually Impaired teachers.

The overwhelming conclusion is the Visually Impaired teacher can also be part of socialized classroom.

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